

The Snake Xen- 4th

This man driving along a country road one cool night accidentally hit a rattlesnake lying across the warm blacktop. 'Oh, no,' said he I have injured or killed an innocent creature. He stopped the car and got out to investigate. The badly injured rattlesnake was barely alive. 'I cannot leave my mistake here to die,' so he scooped up the injured rattlesnake, placed it into a shoebox then carried it home. For weeks, he nursed the animal, feeding it live mice purchased from a local pet shop just for that purpose. The serpent over weeks regained strength and soon was vigorously alive. At feeding time that day, instead of eating the mouse hand fed to it, the rattlesnake repeatedly bit the man's hand. Before he died, the man exclaimed, 'how could you do this to me? After all, I have done for you over these weeks saving your life and you reward me like this! I should have left you to die on the road that night...' As the serpent slithered away, the rattlesnake coolly replied, "stupid man - before bringing me home you knew that I was a rattlesnake." That snake is US Dept of Veterans Affairs. When veterans enter into any relationship with it, eventually the poisonous viper will bite s/he. 100 US veterans die by suicide daily from that viper's bite. Caveat Emptor.

The Sage and Scorpion © Xen- 5th

A sage and his disciple resting by Ganges River noticed a scorpion floating by thrashing about in the water. He reached out, plucked it from a watery grave and placed scorpion onto riverbank. The animal stung him. Bye-the-bye, Sage noticed another scorpion drowning in the river. Again, he was stung for saving the beast. The student asked, "Master why do you save those wretched creatures only to be stung in return?" The Master replied, "The nature of man is to help; the nature of scorpion is to sting..."

So often, that is how it is in life; we court people, places and do things knowing very well of their dangerous nature then when bitten blame the serpent or scorpion instead of our bad judgment and lack of common sense getting involved in the first place. Because one is kind to others never means that they will reciprocate in kind when their nature forbids doing so. Moreover, calling anyone a horse's ass never changes a person's nature, neither does ignoring it; however, because someone is a horse's ass never means I must be one, too. Furthermore, never argue with a fool; first, the fool has more experience and is better suited at it. Secondly, observers might mistake you or me for being *the fool* ☹.

An ounce of prevention truly is worth pounds of cure entering places where angels fear to tread. One such place is US Dept of Veterans Affairs. **100 US veterans die by suicide every day from not getting needed care from VA and Amerika.**

